

Message Text

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42

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 CPR-01 /042 W

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO COMIDEASTFOR

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1714

CNO WASHDC

CINCUSNAVEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JIDDA 4694

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, SA

SUBJECT: VISIT OF USS BROWNSON

REF: A. DHAHRAN 839 (NOTAL; B. STATE 14687

1. ON JANUARY 22 WE REPEATED TO YOU REF B ON THE SUBJECT OF FLYING FOREIGN FLAGS ON US NAVY SHIPS. THE REGULATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL CUSTOM SEEM CLEAR: US NAVY COMBATANT VESSELS DO NOT RPT NOT FLY FOREIGN FLAGS EXCEPT IN EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.
2. IN THIS INSTANCE RAS TANURA ARAMCO OFFICIALS APPEAR TO BE DEMANDING AN ACTION WHICH HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN REQUIRED OF US NAVY WAR VESSELS VISITING SAUDI PORTS.
3. FYI. THE FLYING OF THE SAUDI FLAG BY USN TANKERS IS AN EXCEPTION TO STANDING REGULATIONS RESULTING FROM MUTUAL INFORMAL AGREEMENTS REACHED IN 1947. IT DOES NOT APPLY TO WAR VESSELS. END FYI.
4. WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH ARAMCO OFFICE HERE AND

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HAVE EXPLAINED THE SITUATION. THEY ARE CALLING ARAMCO

DHAHRAN TO TRY AND GET IT STRAIGHTENED OUT.

5. SUGGEST THAT SHIP NOT REPEAT NOT FLY SAUDI FLAG BUT THAT IT REMAIN IN PORT AND THAT YOU EXPLAIN TO ARAMCO OFFICIALS THAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO CLEAR UP A MISUNDERSTANDING.

6. HEAD OF ARAMCO OFFICE HERE HAS JUST CALLED BACK TO SAY HE TALKED WITH ARAMCO DHAHRAN AND THAT ORDERS ARE COMING FROM SAUDI COAST GUARD, NOT ARAMCO. HE ALSO SAID THAT SENIOR AMERICAN ARAMCO OFFICIAL SAYS THAT IN HIS RECOLLECTION US NAVY SHIPS OF ALL TYPES HAVE ALWAYS FLOWN SAUDI FLAG. WE ARE ATTEMPTING CONTACT FONOFF OFFICIALS BUT THUS FAR WITHOUT SUCCESS. SUGGEST YOU ATTEMPT CONTACT EASTERN PROVINCE AREA COMMANDER OR GOVERNOR'S OFFICE AND EXPLAIN SITUATION TO THEM ON BASIS REF B.
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Disposition Authority: buchant0
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Disposition History: n/a
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